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Thailand: Communist insurgents in northeast Thailand have increased their harassment of government security forces.

[redacted]
[redacted] during March the insurgents began to challenge seriously Bangkok's security program initiated in January. The program is designed to protect key villages in the northeast. The Communists apparently have been taking advantage of the government's inability to react with adequate speed in reinforcing security units and patrols.

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During March the insurgents initiated 30 percent more armed encounters than during February for an average of one a day, which matches the frequency of clashes initiated by government forces. The increased intensity of the encounters was reflected in a marked increase in casualties on both sides. The number of enforced propaganda meetings rose to 26, compared with an average of 18 recorded during the three previous months. In one instance, the insurgents occupied a village for 24 hours.

Field estimates of insurgent strength in the northeast have been raised by some 300 and now total 1,300. It is not clear, however, whether the change reflects an increase in the actual number or better intelligence.

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Dominican Republic: Politically inspired acts of violence and terrorism continue to pose major problems for the Balaguer government.

An incident that may have important political ramifications occurred in Santo Domingo on 4 May when a prominent senator of the left-of-center Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), Casimiro Castro, was injured by a fire bomb. Although the assailant has not been identified, the senator has been a strident critic of Balaguer, and some suspicion will inevitably focus on the government. Both the PRD and right-wing 'anti-Trujillista' opponents of the regime will seize on this as further evidence of a 'wave of repression' which Balaguer is unable to control.

Meanwhile, in the remote northeast section of the country a joint army and police patrol encountered six suspected guerrillas and killed one. Circumstantial evidence suggests they are members of the Communist-oriented 14th of June Revolutionary Movement (MR-1J4).

The area in which the clash occurred has long been singled out by extremists as a potential guerrilla warfare zone. Nevertheless, it is not clear whether this was a chance encounter or whether it indicates a decision by the MR-1J4 to undertake an all-out guerrilla campaign at the present time. The police and military are believed capable of containing guerrilla outbreaks, although they have been unable to prevent or solve incidents of urban terrorism.

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Brazil: A growing trend toward anti-Americanism and nationalism in Brazil could develop into a campaign harmful to US-Brazilian relations.

Widely circulated and grossly distorted press stories--apparently based on the activities of a few American missionaries preaching birth control--are alleging that the US is involved in a campaign to sterilize Brazilian women living in the Amazon region. The issue is assuming the proportions of a national campaign picturing Americans as conspirators trying to deprive Brazil of the population it needs to develop its vast area.

In another manifestation of anti-US feelings, leaders of a highly nationalistic news chain have publicly accused the US of taking part in what they allege is a conspiracy to depose President Costa e Silva and force a return to the policies of his predecessor, Castello Branco.

Press treatment of the US has become more hostile since just before the inauguration of Costa e Silva. There is no concrete evidence that his government has stimulated this trend, but it is clear that no real effort has been made to stop it. Leftist-inclined newsmen seem to believe they have a green light to play up the government's new "independent" foreign policy.

All this is arousing the fears of some responsible Brazilians like Castello Branco and former planning minister Roberto Campos that there may be a return to irresponsible foreign and domestic policies. Much will depend on Costa e Silva's ability to balance his desire for popularity with the need to maintain unpopular economic policies.

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25X1 Ethiopia: [] Ethiopian insurgents have
gone to Cuba for guerrilla and sabotage training []

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left Egypt for Havana on a Cuban ship. The Ethiopians
are probably members of the insurgent Eritrean Lib-
eration Front, whose striking power has increased
over the past year because of growing support from
Arab states. []

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